

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes – January 20, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Michigan State Police Training Academy Auditorium
Secondary Government Complex, Dimondale, MI

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Barbara Gattorn, Chair
Brook Thompson, Vice Chair
Deidre Bounds
Donna Budnick
Chris Etienne
Krista Haroutunian
Sally Shaheen Joseph
Cathleen Knauf
Jay Kommareddi
Patricia Lowrie (by conference call)
Judy Rosenberg (by conference call)
Mary Alice Williams

Ex Officio Members

Anna Weisbrodt for Denise Stork-Phillips - Department of Human Services
Patty Cantu - Department of Education
Diane Earls - Michigan Civil Service Commission

State Department Liaisons

Ron Robinson	- Michigan Attorney General
Mary McLellan	- Department of Civil Rights
Heidi Washington	- Department of Corrections
Ruthanne Okun	- Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Captain Monica Yesh	- Department of State Police
Sharon Ellis	- Department of Technology, Management & Budget

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director
Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Attendees included Jason Allen (DMVA), Major General Bob Smith (MEDC), Robert Price (DMVA), Nancy Short (Exec. Office), Angela Tomasko (Pros. Attys. Assoc.), Mandy Wigen (SagChip Tribe), Lisa Estland Olsen (Workforce Dev't Agency), Shirley Zeller (BPW), Melissa Horste (Sen. Levin), and Roberta Gubbins (Legal News).

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Barbara J. Gattorn called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

She introduced the guest speaker, Janis Nark, Lt. Col., USAR (Ret). Lt. Col. Nark spoke about the needs of women veterans, especially services to veterans suffering from both the physical and psychological affects of war, in particular, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). She pointed that that women veterans who do not apply for veteran's benefits in effect deny those services to other female veterans, because the need for services is not demonstrated. "I am here to encourage you to do more," she concluded, "to do everything you can to identify these women veterans, to bring them in" and help them.

In discussion following the presentation, it was stated that transition assistance programs have been made mandatory after deployment. Specialized veterans courts were also discussed.

2. Chair Gattorn introduced the newly-appointed member of the Michigan Women's Commission, Deidre Lambert-Bounds, who fills the unexpired term of Commissioner Gloria Woods.
3. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.
4. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Passed.
5. There was not a quorum at the October 14, 2011 meeting, so no minutes were presented.
6. Advisory Committees, Special Committees, and Reports
Susy Avery, Executive Director, reported on her activities since the previous meeting.
Elizabeth Thompson, staff, reported on her activities since the previous meeting.
7. Unfinished and Old Business

Updates on 2011-2012 MWC Initiatives were presented by Vice Chair Brooke Thompson (veterans) and staff.

MWC Strategic Plan was presented by Commissioner Krista Haroutunian. It was moved and seconded to adopt the plan as presented. Passed.

8. New Business

2011 MWC Annual Report to the Governor was presented by Executive Director Avery. It was moved and seconded to adopt the annual report as presented. Passed.

Commissioner Mary Alice Williams volunteered to review potential nominations to the MI Women's Hall of Fame Nominations. Accepted.

LARA Liaison Ruthanne Okun described the Commission's request for a summary of State Programs of interest to women from each commission liaison, to be posted on the web site.

Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds requested a timeline and quarterly update of progress in achieving strategic plan goals.

9. The next meeting will be Friday, April 20,, at Cadillac Place, Detroit, 2:00 PM

10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gattorn, Chair

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Friday, April 20, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202

L-150 Conference Room (located on lobby level)

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Vice Chair

Deidre Bounds

The Hon. Susan Dobrich

Krista Haroutunian

Sally Shaheen Joseph

Cathleen Knauf

Jay Kommareddi

Judy Rosenberg

Ex Officio Members

Denise Stork-Phillips - Department of Human Services

State Department Liaisons

Ron Robinson

- Michigan Attorney General

Ruthanne Okun

- Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Wendy Fitzner

- Department of Environmental Quality

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director

Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Attendees included Wanda Black (Downtown Citizen District Council), Elaine Flowers (Church Women United), Amy Good (Alternatives for Girls), Deena Policicchio (Alternatives for Girls) Millie Hall (Coalition of Labor Union Women), Leatrice Bagley, Pat McCain, Nancy Short (Exec. Office), Dan Kritchbaum (Director, MI Dept. Of Civil Rights), Rep. Lisa Howze, Wendy Anderson (Attorney General), Florence Herrman (Nat'l Council of Jewish Women)

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Vice Chair Brook Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and introduced the guest speaker, Kelly Carter, Michigan Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division. Carter discussed Michigan's prosecution of Human Traffickers, the difference between sex and labor trafficking, known indicators of trafficking, and victim needs. She noted that the Attorney General's office has provided training to 53 law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. She stressed knowing the indicators of human trafficking and reporting tips to the Polaris Project, a non-profit, non-governmental organization which operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 – 7 every day of the year. The hotline passes on information/tips to appropriate law enforcement and service providers. The hotline number is 1-888-3737-888.

2. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

3. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.

4. It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the January 30, 2012 meeting, as amended. Passed.

5. Advisory Committees, Special Committees, and Reports

i. Elizabeth reported on the very successful 2012 Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference held at Davenport University in Grand Rapids.

ii. Ruthanne Okun reported on the progress of the Guide to State Departments and Agencies being compiled by the Commission, and thanked liaisons for the material submitted.

iii. Susy Avery, Executive Director, reported on her activities since the previous meeting.

6. Unfinished and Old Business

i. Vice Chair Brooke Thompson and the Honorable Susan Dobrich reported on information related to veterans. A DVA webinar emphasized the need for educational institutions to be aware of special needs of veterans, including accommodations for PTSD. The state's Veterans Court Initiative currently has 5 veterans courts. Veterans Courts focus on therapeutic justice, operating similarly to drug courts. Research has shown that drug courts work. Judge Dobrich will be starting a Veterans Court in Cass County.

ii. Vice Chair Brook Thompson asked for a formal vote of approval to continue the Human Trafficking Awareness initiative. It was so moved and seconded.

Passed.

- iii. Discussion on the MWC Strategic Plan's proposed timeline was tabled.

7. New Business

- i. Vice Chair Thompson asked for a vote of approval to adopt the State of Michigan's social media standards. It was so moved and seconded. Passed.
- ii. Elizabeth distributed the MWC letter supporting the nomination of Judy Karandjeff, former Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission, to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.
- iii. The Vice Chair request commissioners to suggest preferred meeting dates for the coming fiscal year.

8. The next meeting is Monday, July 30, 2012, Muskegon Community College, at 2:00 p.m.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Thompson, Vice Chair

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, July 30, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Muskegon Harbor Holiday Inn, 939 3rd Street, Muskegon, MI 49440

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Donna Budnick

Renee Haley

Sally Shaheen Joseph

Jay Kommareddi

Janice Nearon

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

Bobbie Gaunt

Krista Haroutunian

Cathleen Knauf

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Carol Zimmer

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director

Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Ex-Officio and Liaisons

Melanie Brim, Wendy Fitzner, Ruthanne Okun

Attendees included State Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright, Mary Anne Gale (our speaker), Nancy Short (Deputy Manager, Governor's Appointment Division), Melanie Brown (Communications Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights), Katherine Bounds, Dave Allen

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Brook Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Newly appointed commissioners Bobbie Gaunt, Renee Haley, Janice Nearon and Carol Zimmer were introduced. The resignation of Commissioner Alexandra Matish was noted, with thanks for her service.

State Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright welcomed the commission to her district.

Vice-Chair Chris Etienne introduced guest speaker Mary Anne Gale who spoke on career success in the business world. She likened the workplace to a democracy in which only some top performers get “elected” to higher positions. These top performers have developed relationships with decision-makers, who advocate for them, “voting” on their behalf. She also stressed the need for long-term career planning (six or more years into the future). Women’s career plans can and should take into account life/career phases, including the child-rearing phase, mid-career (late 30s to mid 50s) and later career (mid 50’s to retirement).

- 1) The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.
- 2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 3) It was moved and seconded to adopt the April 20, 2012 meeting minutes. Passed.
- 4) Advisory Committees, Special Committees, and Reports
 - a) Elizabeth reported on information received.
 - b) Judy Karandjeff, former Executive Director of the Michigan Women’s Commission, will be inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame on October 18, 2012. Commissioners were asked to support this event.
- 5) Executive Director’s Report
- 6) Susy Avery, Executive Director, shared a note written by the previous chair, Barbara Gattorn, before her death, thanking the Commission for its support during her illness. A letter has been sent to the Gattorn family offering the Commission’s condolences. Susy reported on her activities since the previous meeting.
- 7) Unfinished and Old Business - Updates on MWC Strategic Plan Initiatives were given by each of the three workgroups.
 - a) Human Trafficking Awareness – Donna Budnick reported on proposed additions to the Strategic Plan:
Objective 1.1 - Provide awareness of the existence of sex trafficking of children in Michigan.
Measure 1.1.a - Identify potential speakers that can provide awareness to communities and organizations that are interested in learning about sex trafficking of children in Michigan.
Measure 1.1.b. – Assist in outreach efforts to communities and organizations interested in learning about sex trafficking of children in Michigan.
It was moved and seconded to adopt the additions as proposed. Passed.
 - b) Women Veterans – Brook Thompson reported on suggested implementation activities:
Objective 2.1 – Collaboratively, develop an outreach plan for women veterans, to improve access to services and benefits.

The first step is to assess needs of women veterans' in Michigan. The workgroup proposes to review possible survey mechanisms, and develop and disseminate a survey, with the assistance of MI Association of County Veterans Counselors and MI-ACE to reach women veterans.

Specifically, there is a need for more female-specific substance abuse and mental health services in Michigan for women veterans. The work group proposes developing correspondence to the congressional delegation outlining needs.

The workgroup is monitoring proposed state legislation to increase state support for veterans courts. If such legislation is passed, the workgroup wants to develop strategies to support new and existing veterans courts.

c) Funding Options/Women-Owned Businesses – The workgroup reported on implementation activities for

Objective 3.2 – Connect women entrepreneurs to information and resources

MWC's intern, Eden Davis, working with Chris Etienne, has compiled a list of funding options for women-owned businesses. It is being reviewed by MEDC staff. It will be posted on the web site by the end of fiscal year

The workgroup proposes developing other strategies to share this information. It also proposes publicizing services offered by SCORE.

8) New Business - Fiscal 2013 meeting dates were decided - October 22, 2012; January 25, 2013; April 15, 2013; July 29, 2013

9) Commissioners' reports and Ex Officio and Liaison reports were received.

10) There was no public comment.

11) The next meeting is Monday, October 22, 2012, in Lansing, Michigan (location to be determined) at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Thompson, Chair

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, October 22, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48933

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Donna Budnick

The Hon. Susan Dobrich

Sally Shaheen Joseph

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

Bobbie Gaunt

Krista Haroutunian

Cathleen Knauf

Jay Kommareddi
Janice Nearon
Staff
Susy Avery, Executive Director
Specialist
Ex-Officio and Liaisons

Deidre Lambert-Bounds
Patricia Lowrie (by phone)

Elizabeth Thompson, Program

Patty Cantu (MWD), Wendy Fitzner (DEQ), Val Hoag (MEDC), Mary McLellan (MDCR)
Ruthanne Okun (LARA), Ron Robinson (Attorney General), Denise Stork-Phillips (DHS),
Donna Allen Wilson (Civil Service)

Attendees included Kyle Stuef (speaker from Ignite Social Media) Nancy Short (Deputy
Manager, Governor's Appointment Division), Melanie Brown (Communications Director,
MDCR), Jacki Miller (MDCR), Tanya Baker (LARA), Kate Hayer (DEQ), Kate Lederle
(DEQ), Elizabeth Pratt (Senate Fiscal Agency), Nicole Sunstrum (MEDC), Angela
Tomasko (Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan) and Andrea Schroeder,

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brook Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
 - 2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the July 30, 2012 meeting minutes, as corrected. Passed.
 - 3) Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds introduced Kyle Steuf, who spoke about social media, and its importance to our work.
 - 4) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives:
Vice-Chair Etienne – Funding Options for Women-Owned Business
Commissioner Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking
Commissioner Gaunt – Women Veterans
 - 6) Elizabeth Thompson reported that the Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference will be March 15 at the Downriver campus of the Wayne County Community College District.
 - 7) Susy Avery reported on the creation of the Michigan Women's Commission Dashboard Measures, which quantify the objectives of the strategic plan (see attached dashboard goals).
 - 8) Commissioner Knauf reported on activities of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force.
 - 9) Commissioner Dobrich reported on the March 12-14 MI Assn. of Drug Court Professionals conference.
 - 10) No public comment was received.
 - 11) The next Michigan Women's Commission meeting will be at 2:00 p.m., January 25, 2013, at the Mott Community College main campus in Flint.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Thompson, Chair